

# Beauty and the Beast: Violence in the Lives of Women and Girls

By Karen Evans

Throughout the world, violence against women and girls is a critical societal issue. While females are most often the victims, it is also true that women, and increasingly girls, are also responsible for violent acts.

This essay highlights key publications covering the important topic of violence in the lives of women and girls, both as victims and as perpetrators. Resources discussed examine a wide range of topics, including domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment,

bullying, homicide, stalking, and honor crimes. Separate sections address the increasing violence exhibited by girls, as well as female involvement in terrorism. Although this essay cannot begin to cover every topic in depth, it can serve as a starting point for research on the issues.

How do we define violence? *Oxford Dictionaries* define violence as "behavior involving physical force intended to hurt, damage or kill someone or something."<sup>1</sup> Yet this essay illustrates that violence can be without physical force, inflicting emotional and psychological damage. A more succinct meaning of violence is from the Violence Prevention Alliance, which uses the definition from the World Health Organization's *World Report on Violence and Health*: "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has

a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation."<sup>2</sup> No matter what type of violence women and girls experience or mete out to others, the damage can be deadly for those involved.

## General and Subject-Specific Reference Materials

*THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF INTERPERSONAL Violence*, edited by Claire Renzetti and Jeffrey Edleson, is a two-volume set containing more than 500 alphabetical listings on a wide variety of topics pertaining to violence, women, and children. Among the topics covered are acid attacks, trafficking and slavery, racial and ethnic violence, sexual harassment in the armed forces, and subcultures of violence. A "Reader's Guide," which is organized in twelve general categories (e.g., "Children and

Youth," "Interpersonal Violence," "Research Methods and Data Collection Instruments"), helps users locate articles. The set is an excellent resource for issues on interpersonal violence. Broader in focus is *Violence in America*, edited by Ronald Gottesman and Richard M. Brown. This three-volume work encompassing 595 entries examines a range of topics related to violence in the United States, from murder (by Lizzie Borden and Aileen Wuornos) to theories of violence. This work begins with a selective chronology of violence in the United States and continues with essays providing in-depth information on diverse topics. Within *Violence in America*, overview chapters can be found on premenstrual syndrome and female violence, violence against women, and women who kill.

*Women's Issues*, edited by Margaret McFadden, part of Salem Press's "Ready Reference" series, is another three-volume work offering an extensive alphabetical listing of entries focused on women, including organizations, events, and issues. The age of this 1997 publication makes it a good source for historical information on incidents, people, and topics. Among the broad and diverse range of topics covered are battered women syndrome, marital rape, genital mutilation, and clitoridectomy. Entries include either "Relevant Issues" (providing keywords about the topic) or "Areas of Achievement" (highlighting the areas of society pertinent to the topic, such as social reform ecology, politics). A helpful "Significance" section within entries provides a quick overview of the importance of the topic. *The Penguin Atlas of Women in the World* by Joni Seager provides a unique layout to present information. Eight thematic sections provide data on an approximately two-page display. The sections are broken into

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smaller topics; for example, the section on families provides information on lesbian rights, marriage, and divorce as well as domestic violence and murder. The "Body Politics" section includes chapters on sex trafficking and rape. A few paragraphs introduce the topic, and brightly colored maps and charts provide the majority of the data. This is a great source for statistical data.

Two works in the "Health Reference Series" published by Omnographics are central to this topic. *Child Abuse Sourcebook*, edited by Joyce Shannon, is all-encompassing and will be pertinent to students and practitioners who are studying the topic or working with child abuse victims. Organized in seven sections, this sourcebook addresses various aspects of child abuse, such as definitions of terms, signs and symptoms, statistics, and cost and impact of child abuse. It covers individual types of abuse (e.g., physical, emotional, and sexual) as well as information on legislation, reporting child abuse, foster care and adoption, preventing child abuse, and positive parenting. *Domestic Violence Sourcebook*, edited by Sandra Judd, provides excellent coverage of domestic abuse as well as numerous resources on the topic. Individual sections of the book offer facts about domestic violence; discuss the many types of violence, such as stalking, sexual harassment, and intimate partner abuse; and address ways to prevent domestic violence, provide emergency management of such violence, and more. The "Abuse in Specific Populations" section covers children, teen dating violence, date rape, digital dating abuse, elder abuse, and immigrant communities. A wealth of material is provided in the "Additional Help and Information" section, which will be useful to those involved in the fight against domestic violence.

The *Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence*, edited by Nicky Ali Jackson, provides an A-Z as well as a thematic listing of more than 125 entries for easy use; a wide range of topics includes child abuse, elder abuse, and domestic violence and the law. Domestic violence is also addressed within specific cultures (e.g., African American, Asian, and Latin American) and countries (e.g., Pakistan and China). Entries include topics that may not be covered in other domestic violence resources; among them are the Lautenberg Amendment, lesbian battering, and male victims of domestic violence. The *Handbook on Sexual Violence*, edited by Jennifer Brown and

Sandra Walklate, is an interdisciplinary collection that discusses sexual violence in the context of specific circumstances such as war, sexual harassment, bullying, rape, and murder. The book's four sections nicely organize chapters: "Legacies" (historical background); "Theoretical Perspectives" (contemporary thinking); "Acts of Sexual Violence" (types of sexual violence); and "Responding to Sexual Violence" (current policies and practices). This tome provides a wealth of information on sexual violence, from historical perspectives to suggestions for improving communication among all parties involved with this type of violence.

Larry Morris, a forensic psychologist, provides an inside look at women and girls who led less than exemplary lives in *Dangerous Women: Why Mothers, Daughters, and Sisters Become Stalkers, Molesters, and Murderers*. Morris profiles these women perpetrators of violence by group: "Female Predators" (Aileen Wuornos, Karla Homolka); "Partner Killers" (Loretta Fontaine, Mary Winkler); "A Little Lethal" (Lisa Marie Nowak); "Murderous Mothers" (Andrea Yates, Susan Smith); "Molesters" (pseudonyms used); and "Abusive Teachers" (Mary Kay Letourneau, Debra LaFave). Morris completes his work by discussing why girls and women become dangerous (genes, poor parenting) and suggesting ways to combat the dangerous behavior of women and girls (public education, parenting education).

*Female Victims of Crime*, edited by Vanessa Garcia, Janice Clifford, and Roslyn Muraskin, examines numerous topics involving gender and crime including rape, domestic violence, harassment, and the differences among race, class, and gender as factors in crime. The book also discusses workplace violence and the different types of violence women will encounter in the workplace as a result of their gender. *Sourcebook on Violence against Women*, edited by Claire Renzetti, Jeffrey Edleson, and Raquel Kennedy Bergen, provides an encompassing resource on women and violence. Main sections of the book address theoretical and methodological issues in researching violence against women, types of violence, and prevention and intervention. Special topics include men researching violence, female genital mutilation, the SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) program, and the criminalization of pregnancy.

## Domestic Violence and Homicide

IN 1994, ANDREA O'DONNELL WAS murdered in her apartment by her boyfriend. O'Donnell was a member of the student body at San Diego State University, a women's studies major, and student director of the Women's Resource Center on campus. Kathleen Jones, author of *Living between Danger and Love: The Limits of Choice*, is a professor who taught O'Donnell, and she writes about O'Donnell in this volume. Jones, along with many others who knew Andrea, wondered how this death could have happened. Andrea was a bright, strong, articulate woman. More important, if this could happen to Andrea, it could happen to anyone. If it can happen to anyone, how can we prevent it from happening? Jones explores these issues as she tries to come to terms with the student's death, her own experiences, people's choices, and the consequences of those choices.

For firsthand accounts of domestic violence, *Domestic Abuse: Our Stories* by M. Webb provides more than a dozen stories about women and the abuse they suffered at the hands of boyfriends or husbands, or in a few cases perpetrated by in-laws. They run the gamut from a pharmacist to a waitress, illustrating that domestic violence can occur at any educational or socioeconomic level. The stories of these women vary, but the common theme is having jealous, abusive men in their lives. A few stories in this book are told by family members; the women victims did not survive the relationship to speak for themselves.

In *Death by Domestic Violence*, authors Katherine van Wormer and Albert Roberts examine issues contributing to the most tragic outcome of domestic violence. They explore risk factors and issues for domestic homicide, including the role played by alcohol and drugs. Murder-suicide in domestic situations is also explored. This work covers domestic homicide around the world, including honor killing, dowry bride burnings, and crimes of passion. Two chapters are devoted to safety and prevention; the topic of working with battering men includes the Duluth Model and batterers' education groups. *When Battered Women Kill*, by Angela Browne, focuses on women who kill their abusive partners. Browne looks at the often violent childhood of these women, progressing into their early courtship and moving

into battering and abuse at the hands of their partner. Personal interviews with the accused women offer an intimate look at the physical, emotional, and sexual abuse they endured. Several behaviors of the abusive partner are discussed. Among them are intrusive behavior (which the women often viewed as love and protective behavior on the part of the man during the early stage of a relationship), isolation, jealousy, and those in the unknown past of the abuser (e.g., criminal records, past criminal behavior).

When battered women kill, they are often sentenced to prison. In *Convicted Survivors: The Imprisonment of Battered Women Who Kill*, Elizabeth Dermody Leonard looks at more than forty women who were convicted in California of killing their abuser and sentenced to prison terms. Narratives of the convicted women provide insight into their view of themselves (did they consider themselves battered women?), the abuse dealt to them, and the response of the criminal justice system when they sought help from police agencies. A chapter on profiles of the convicted women provides demographic information including age, race, marital status, education, substance abuse history, and employment. *Convicted Survivors* offers a disturbing look at women who find homicide to be their only recourse to end domestic abuse and save their children and themselves.

Marilee Strong and Mark Powelson present a different perspective on men who kill their female partners in *Erased: Missing Women, Murdered Wives*. Based on their five years of reporting and research, the authors believe certain men seek to not only murder their partner, but to "erase" the partner's existence. Eraser killing follows a particular pattern: the male kills his female partner using a soft method (he does not have to worry about blood or DNA evidence), and then disposes of the body or creates a crime scene that points away from his involvement. *Erased* presents a compelling look at men who commit this type of crime; among the eraser killers profiled are Scott Peterson, Mark Hacking, Richard Crafts, and Christian Longo.

Vicki Crompton and Ellen Zelda Kessner share a terrible bond as the mothers of murdered daughters. They wrote *Saving Beauty from the Beast: How to Protect Your Daughter from an Unhealthy Relationship* in hopes of saving other parents from their fate. The authors discuss the types of violence daughters can encounter and what parents can do to help their children leave an abusive relationship (advice

includes how to spot the warning signs of a violent relationship). Chapters include interviews with girls in violent relationships and advice on what parents can do if they suspect their child is the battering partner in a relationship. This is an important resource for helping parents ensure that their daughters realize that abuse is not acceptable in any relationship.

*Hurting the One You Love: Violence in Relationships* by Irene Hanson Frieze is the result of more than thirty years of research on violence in relationships. From defining aggression (violent and nonviolent) and looking at the factors contributing to violence (environment, biology, learning) to considering the reactions of those at the brunt of the violence (posttraumatic stress, coping, seeking help), this volume provides information on different types of violence and the results of these violent acts. The author also examines specific types of aggression such as battering, intimate partner violence, child abuse, and incest.

Online resources containing valuable information on domestic violence include two sites from the U.S. Department of Justice. The *Office on Violence against Women* (<http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/index.html>) provides information on federal programs and legislation, reports on combating violence against women, and a clickable "Find Local Resources" map, which identifies relevant state resources. A related site from the U.S. Justice Department is *Domestic Violence* (<http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/domviolence.htm>), which focuses on domestic abuse, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. The U.S. National Library of Medicine's *MedlinePlus: Domestic Violence* (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/domesticviolence.html>) is another authoritative online resource for information and news on this issue. It includes valuable links to related topics (e.g., child abuse, teen violence) and key publications of other organizations, many health related, involved with this problem.

## Homicide and Maternal Filicide

ONE OF THE MOST UNTHINKABLE acts is a mother murdering her child, commonly known as maternal filicide. Although definitive statistics are difficult (the homicide may be masked as accidental or SIDS related), between the years of 1976 and 2004, 30 percent of all children

murdered under the age of five were killed by their mothers.<sup>3</sup> *Mothers Who Kill Their Children: Understanding the Acts of Moms from Susan Smith to the "Prom Mom,"* by Cheryl Meyer et al., begins with an introduction on the cross-cultural history of infanticide. It describes the history of this practice in ancient Rome and Sparta, traditional Chinese society, early Muslim and Hindu cultures, and Judeo-Christian Europe. The authors describe five typologies (a chapter on each) of mothers who kill their children. Two types are related to abuse and neglect. Another is purposeful killing (for example, Susan Smith in 1994 drowned her two small sons in a vehicle and claimed she was carjacked). Case histories add haunting details to this volume about mothers who murder their children. In 2008, Michelle Oberman, a law professor, and Cheryl Meyer, a psychology professor, continued their work in *When Mothers Kill: Interviews from Prison*. They identified characteristics of violence and isolation in the eight women they extensively interviewed. The first half of this book concentrates on the stories of the women, while the second half tries to understand their crime. *Infanticide: Psychosocial and Legal Perspectives on Mothers Who Kill*, edited by Margaret Spinelli, provides a scholarly treatment of maternal infanticide, addressing epidemiology, historical legal statutes, bio-psychosocial and cultural factors, legislation, and treatment and prevention. With insightful medical, psychological, and legal perspectives, *Infanticide* offers an in-depth look at mothers who kill their children.

*The New Predator: Women Who Kill—Profiles of Female Serial Killers* by Deborah Schurman-Kauflin presents a detailed study of women convicted of multiple murders in the United States. The volume covers theories, maturation, and behavior problems as the author attempts to understand why the women committed murder. An interesting chapter focuses on interviewing multiple murderers, possibly the outcome of the author interviewing four serial killers and three mass murderers for the book. Hannah Scott discusses the various types of female killers, including "black widows," in *The Female Serial Murderer: A Sociological Study of Homicide and the "Gentler Sex."* Scott looks at killers characterized as "angels of death," "client based killers," and "family based killers." A chapter on psychological explanations for female serial murder includes a discussion of Munchausen syndrome by proxy, a disorder in which women seek medical attention for a relative

(usually a child) and bask in the attention the child receives.

*Why Women Kill: Homicide and Gender Equality* by Vickie Jensen is the product of nearly eight years of the author's investigation of gender and homicide. Six chapters delve into the topic, with Jensen comparing men and women within gender and homicide bounds, and exploring gender equality and women's homicide rates. Are gender-equality variables necessary to understand the rate of women's homicide? Jensen seeks to start a conversation on the topic. The volume also looks at gender equality within the framework of domestic homicides (including children and other family members). At the very least, within this volume the author points out the need for further studies on

Boys case), and people (Boston Strangler) can easily be located. A chronology from 1780 BCE to 2004 provides a historical look at rape-related events. Given its 2004 publication date, this volume is not pertinent for more current topics such as sexual abuse in the U.S. military, but it is valuable for its broad scope and historical coverage of rape and related subjects. The 1996 volume *Wife Rape: Understanding the Response of Survivors and Service Providers* by Raquel Kennedy Bergen offers an intimate and personal look at this issue. In this volume several women discuss being raped by husbands and boyfriends; it includes force only, battering, and sadistic rape. The author analyzes how women experience rape and how institutions respond and assist the

prosecution of their rapist. Their harrowing and courageous stories give the reader an inside view of what the criminal justice system is often like for a rape victim.

Thema Bryant-Davis (a survivor of sexual violence) provides assistance for surviving a sexual assault in a volume she edited, *Surviving Sexual Violence: A Guide to Recovery and Empowerment*. Various situations are explored: human trafficking, sexual harassment, sexual workplace behavior, marital rape, child sexual abuse, stranger assaults, and sexual violence in the military. Bryant-Davis also discusses paths of recovery after an attack, with a look at rape crisis centers, psychological counseling, journaling, self-defense, spirituality, and religion. Jane Doe is also a survivor of sexual violence, a victim of the Balcony Rapist in 1986. She details her experience in *The Story of Jane Doe: A Book about Rape*. After her assault, Jane learned the police department was aware of the attacks but chose not to inform the community because they thought women would become "hysterical" if they knew about the rapist. Jane sued the Toronto police for their action (or lack of). Her book is an amazing and courageous account of a woman who fought back against an organization charged with the duty to protect and serve.

In *I Am the Central Park Jogger*, Trisha Meili tells the story of her brutal beating and rape while jogging in Central Park on April 19, 1989. Her life changed dramatically on that day; Meili describes her life before and after the attack.

Another compelling account of sexual assault can be found in *After Silence: Rape and My Journey Back*. In 1985 Nancy Venable Raine was raped as she took out the trash. She details the attack and the aftermath with raw honesty and emotion. This moving account shows that one can triumph over a devastating personal attack; it will benefit anyone who has suffered a sexual assault.

*Violence against Women: The Bloody Footprints*, edited by Pauline Bart and Eileen Geil Moran, examines the types of violence experienced by women (including murder, father and daughter incest, workplace sexual assaults, obscene phone calls, and the issue of fraternities and campus rape) as well as institutional responses to this violence. One particularly provocative chapter, "Riding the Bull at Gilley's," contains convicted rapists' descriptions of the rewards of rape. The men describe why they committed rape and the psychological and/or physical feelings they experienced from the act.

## *The police department was aware of the attacks but chose not to inform the community.*

gender equality and homicide.

Sheila Isenberg has written an absolutely fascinating work on women who love male prisoners in *Women Who Love Men Who Kill*. Isenberg, an investigative reporter, relates the lives of women who have found true love with men behind bars for murder (often more than one murder). The interviews are riveting. Women describe how caring and solicitous the men are when they see them during prison visiting hours (one woman states that her man calls her "princess"). Women describe how they move closer to the prison, work more than one job to help support their inmate, and plan for a life together if their husband or lover (rarely in the physical sense) is released from prison. Although the women are obviously aware the men are in prison for murder, they believe (for numerous reasons) that the murderer was not their man's fault or that he had no alternative but to kill to survive. Isenberg's book is an intimate look into how these women find love with a violent felon and often ignore the reality of their situation.

women. Although the laws have changed in several states, this volume provides a historical look at the act of wife rape. In *Rape: Challenging Contemporary Thinking*, edited by Miranda Horvath and Jennifer Brown, leading European researchers on sexual violence examine many topics associated with rape, including media coverage, the role substance abuse plays, and how police interview rape victims.

Readers will gain a better understanding of how police respond to and interview female rape victims by consulting *The Word of a Woman? Police, Rape and Belief* by Jan Jordan. The author focuses on how believable women are when they report a sexual assault and how this influences the male police officers who interview and work with the victims. This intriguing volume discusses how women and their ability to tell the truth have been perceived and illustrated throughout history, and how those beliefs color the way male police officers respond to reports of rape. Reported incidents of rape are discussed by both victims and police officers to demonstrate how the women are treated when reporting a crime and how the police determine (in their minds) the validity of the woman and her report. *Taking the Stand: Rape Survivors and the Prosecution of Rapists* by Amanda Konradi moves from the report of a rape to the prosecution of the rapist, as viewed through the eyes of the victims. The book recounts the experiences of forty-seven women who decided to pursue

## Rape and Sexual Violence

*ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RAPE*, EDITED BY MERRIL Smith, provides an alphabetical, dictionary-style work in which definitions, incidents (Rape of the Sabine Women, Scottsboro

Date rape is the focus of several useful works. Numerous factors can contribute to date rape, and *Date Rape*, edited by Christine Watkins, treats several topics (some are pro/con). From defining rape to the involvement of drugs and alcohol, false accusations of rape, and the role of the legislature in protecting rape victims, this volume reveals the many controversies involved in determining how to combat date rape. Scott Lindquist, a crime prevention specialist (certified through the Florida Attorney General's Office) examines the factors involved with date rape in *The Date Rape Prevention Book: The Essential Guide for Girls and Women*. He presents a date rape triangle, which identifies the three elements he believes are necessary for a rapist to be successful. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' *Womenshealth.gov: Date Rape Drugs Fact Sheet* (<http://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/date-rape-drugs.cfm>) provides information on what constitutes a date rape drug, what the drugs look like, and how they work and affect the body. This site also contains information on what to do if you think you are the victim of a date rape drug.

The U.S. military is working to stop the sexual violence women are exposed to in the armed forces. Recent media reports confirm that several officers appointed to stop the sexual abuse and harassing behavior have been charged or dismissed for the same acts themselves. In *For Love of Country: Confronting Rape and Sexual Harassment in the U.S. Military*, T. S. Nelson looks at the problem and the aftermath of sexual incidents, and recommends ways to confront the problem. Included in this work are suggestions for victims and the military from actual survivors of sexual assault and harassment in the military. The victims' personal accounts provide a chilling glimpse into what life in the military is like for many women.

Two U.S. Department of Defense websites provides information and assistance and support to victims of military sexual assault and harassment. *SAPRO: Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office* (<http://www.sapr.mil/>) provides research findings, a safe helpline, and training to combat sexual assault problems. Also available on this site are annual reports of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program from 2004 to 2012, as well as reports on sexual assault and

harassment at the U.S. military academies. A related site by the Department of Defense is *Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention* ([http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2012/0912\\_sexual-assault/](http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2012/0912_sexual-assault/)), which provides information and links to numerous news stories, resources, speeches, and transcripts about the issue.

## The Global View: Females and Violence

MICHAEL PENN AND RAHEL NARDOS examine various types of violence and abuse against women and girls on a worldwide scale in *Overcoming Violence against Women and Girls: The International Campaign to Eradicate a Worldwide Problem*. The authors delve into issues of child abuse and incest, trafficking, rape, and physical abuse. They do not shy away from the often sanctioned violence of female circumcision and the dowry and honor murders common in many countries. A chapter is devoted to the role of men in eliminating gender-based violence against women. *Forsaken Females: The Global Brutalization of Women* by Andrea Parrot and Nina Cummings (the authors have a combined sixty years of work in the field of violence against women) reviews various perspectives on violence against women in the first section of the book. The second section focuses on violent practices against women: infanticide, feticide, female genital cutting, sexual slavery, trafficking, and honor killing. The third section considers the impact of these violent acts and how they can be combated. Chapters end on a positive note with the inclusion of success stories as well as practices geared toward eradicating the problem discussed in the chapter.

Honor crimes are a part of life in many countries with traditional societies; male relatives commit murder to ensure the honor and good name of the family. Chewing gum, wearing makeup, being sexually assaulted by a friend or relative, or wearing inappropriate dress in public are acceptable reasons for an honor killing in some societies. In some cases, just the suggestion of an unsuitable activity by a woman can result in her death for honor. In *Murder in the Name of Honor: The True Story of One Woman's Heroic Fight against an Unbelievable Crime*, Rana Husseini details her fight to change the laws of traditional cultures that practice honor killings. One chapter examines honor killings in several countries, including Pakistan, Iran,

Lebanon, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This is a chilling look at a crime often sanctioned by family members against their own relatives. In *Honour: Crimes, Paradigms, and Violence against Women*, edited by Lynn Welchman and Sara Hossain, sixteen chapters investigate various aspects of honor killings. Several countries, including Egypt, Pakistan, and Lebanon, are profiled. A chapter is devoted to the United Nations' efforts to fight against honor crimes. Additional chapters detail the situation in the United Kingdom and the historical situation in Italy.

## Stalking

*IN HIS SIGHTS: A TRUE STORY OF LOVE AND Obsession* details the experience of Kate Brennan, who was stalked for years after she decided to end a nearly three-year relationship with a man with whom she had been living. From coming home and finding her front door open and personal objects moved in her home, to having her phone lines cut and strangers walking up to her with personal comments, Brennan shows the toll stalking can have on its victim. Michelle Pathé's *Surviving Stalking* provides resources for victims of stalking and those who care about them. Her book defines stalking (legal and clinical); illustrates types of stalking (telephone, mail, following, surveillance); and provides a how-to manual for dealing with stalking in the United States, Britain, and Australia. Case studies illustrating various types of stalking enhance readers' understanding of this behavior.

*Stalkers and Their Victims*, by Paul Mullen, Michelle Pathé, and Rosemary Purcell (clinicians who have worked with and studied stalking and victims), provides a readable, authoritative resource on this topic. The volume's twenty-three chapters treat assorted issues about stalking victims and types of stalkers (rejected, erotomaniac, predatory, cyberstalker, same-sex, and proxy), including workplace and celebrity stalking. Additional issues covered include evaluating risk and reducing the impact of stalking on victims, and prosecuting stalkers. Peppered with individual cases of stalking, this volume is an excellent resource on the different types of stalking and combating the crime. Doreen Orion describes her personal experience of being stalked by someone suffering from erotomania in *I Know You Really Love Me: A Psychiatrist's Journal of Erotomania, Stalking, and Obsessive Love*. Orion found notes and cards

on her windshield, and unwanted phone calls and visits to her home by her stalker—a former patient—for eight years. When the psychiatrist and her husband moved out of state, the stalker followed them. Orion provides an interesting look at what it feels like to be stalked and the toll it takes on the person being stalked.

*Stalking and Violence: New Patterns of Trauma and Obsession* by Stephen Morewitz provides a wide range of information on stalking, from determining relationships prone to stalking to deciding when to involve law enforcement. An interesting chapter covers nonlegal responses that stalking victims may take to end the stalking, such as direct interaction with a stalker or use of security measures. Other chapters discuss stalking laws and police intervention, and treatment and incarceration. Being stalked can affect many parts of the victim's life. *Partner Stalking: How Women Respond, Cope, and Survive*, edited by T. K. Logan et al., looks at stalking solely from the viewpoint of the victim. Sixty-two females tell their stories about being victims of stalking and how it affected their lives, from the emotional toll to financial and employment issues. The book ends on a positive note, discussing what has been learned about stalking from the interviews with the women, and offering tips for professional responders and women being stalked.

*The Stalking of Kristin: A Father Investigates the Murder of His Daughter*, by George Lardner Jr., provides a very personal look at a father trying to understand how and why his daughter was murdered by her stalker. Lardner, an investigative journalist, turned a Pulitzer Prize-winning article about his daughter into this memoir. Kristen Lardner, an art student in Boston, did everything she was supposed to do when faced with a harassing and stalking ex-boyfriend. She talked to the police, filed restraining orders, and attended court hearings. Time and time again, her stalker was able to manipulate the system in his favor. Unfortunately, Kristin thought the criminal justice system would listen to and protect her. The system did not, and she paid the ultimate price when she was gunned down with three bullets to the head on a Boston street on May 30, 1992. Kristin did leave a legacy: because of her murder and her father's subsequent work, laws were changed in Massachusetts.

*Stalking: Psychology, Risk Factors, Interventions, and Law*, edited by Mary Brewster, provides a wealth of information about stalking. In addition to an excellent overview and historical coverage of stalking,

this work addresses the numerous aspects of managing stalking situations. The first section covers the prevalence and characteristics of stalking; stalking legislation in the United States (including definitions, constitutional challenges to statutes, criminal justice response to stalking, and recommendations for improving system responsiveness); civil legal options (types of protective orders, advantages and disadvantages of protective orders); and stalking controversies. The second section addresses psychological issues, risk assessment, and interventions. Included is a classification of stalkers as well as discussions of the clinical management of stalkers and their behaviors; children and stalking; the psychological impact of stalking; and when stalking turns violent.

*Whisper of Fear: The True Story of the Prosecutor Who Stalks the Stalkers* by Rhonda Saunders and Stephen Michaud presents a prosecutor's view of stalking. Saunders, the founder of the Stalking and Threat Assessment Team and former deputy prosecutor for Orange County, California, prosecuted stalking cases involving Madonna, Steven Spielberg, and Gwyneth Paltrow. Saunders discusses stalking cases she prosecuted, including the disturbing case of a stalker who lived under the victim's house in a crawl space. A chapter titled "What You Should Know about Stalking" provides excellent information on this insidious crime, including the three things prosecutors must prove, and categories of stalking (intimate and nonintimate, erotomania, and false victimization). This book provides valuable information to victims of stalking on what to do and ways to protect themselves.

The *Stalking Resource Center* (<http://www.victimsofcime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>), part of the National Center for Victims of Crime, is an excellent site for information on stalking. In addition to fact sheets and links to other basic materials, this site offers resources to assist victims; a section on stalking laws (civil and criminal by state); publications and training materials for practitioners; and a searchable directory of services in local communities. The National Institute of Justice's website *Stalking* (<http://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/stalking/>) also provides valuable information on this type of crime. It includes statistics on its prevalence and the characteristics of victims; data on the arrest and prosecution of stalkers; reports on intimate partner stalking; and links to many other related resources.

## Terrorism and Females

*FEMALE TERRORISM AND MILITANCY*, EDITED BY Cindy Ness, offers a look at female terrorists throughout the world. From Ness's brief essay on women and modern terrorism, the volume segues into topics such as women as suicide bombers, Chechen Black Widows, members of armed groups in Northern Uganda and Sierra Leone, and women terrorists in Asia. One chapter focuses on women and racial terrorism in the United States, including the Ku Klux Klan, Skinheads, and neo-Nazis. *Terror, Counter-terror: Women Speak Out*, edited by Ammu Joseph and Kalpana Sharma, provides an interesting array of essays written by women, including Barbara Ehrenreich, Susan Sontag, and Barbara Kingsolver. They argue against all forms of terrorism, including counterterrorism.

Women who use suicide bombing as their "voice" is the topic of Rosemarie Skaine's *Female Suicide Bombers*. Skaine defines suicide bombing and examines the history of the act. Additional chapters review why women, including Palestinian and Chechen women, choose to become suicide bombers. Wafa Idris responded to Yassar Arafat's call for Palestinian women to become part of the battle for liberation; she became the first female suicide bomber of the Intifada. Barbara Victor's *Army of Roses: Inside the World of Palestinian Women Suicide Bombers* profiles Idris and several women who followed in her footsteps for the cause. Why did these young women decide to strap on explosives and march into martyrdom? Victor interviews families and friends to try to understand the choices they made.

## Violence and Girls

JAMES GARBARINO, A PROFESSOR AT Loyola University in Chicago, has been studying violence in children and youth for more than thirty years. As society has changed, he has changed his focus of study from boys to girls and their aggressive behavior. In his *See Jane Hit: Why Girls Are Growing More Violent and What Can Be Done about It*, Garbarino discusses how pop culture celebrates aggressive girls. He considers whether boys and girls are wired differently for aggression, and examines girls who kill themselves or others. *Combating Gender Violence in and around Schools*, edited by Fiona Leach and Claudia Mitchell, examines gender violence in schools around the world. Sections investigate such

violence from an international perspective that includes the developing world. Case studies look at North America, the United Kingdom, Russia, Pakistan, and Nepal; they include corporal punishment as a gender issue. This work presents strategies for change, e.g., using artwork, combating body image issues, preventing violence, and working with teachers.

*Sugar and Spice and No Longer Nice: How We Can Stop Girls' Violence* by Deborah Prothrow-Stith and Howard Spivak focuses on understanding and dealing with the challenges presented by violent acts committed by girls. The authors discuss the increase in violent behavior and aggression that girls express toward each other and the various risk factors—including substance abuse, poverty, weapons, and victimization—for this behavior. The authors devote an interesting chapter to the “feminization of the superhero” as a factor in girls’ behavior. Their volume concludes with suggestions to negate the violence through parental action, schools and teachers, community involvement, and positive relationships with adults. Stephen Hinshaw and Rachel Kranz’s *The Triple Bind: Saving Our Teenage Girls from Today’s Pressures* provides insights into the increasing pressures teenage girls face in contemporary society. They attribute these pressures to the “triple bind”: pressure to be good at all traditional female qualities (e.g., to be empathetic, nice, obedient, nurturing); to be good at traditional male activities (sports, competition, assertive behavior); and to conform to an unrealistic set of standards on how women should look and behave. They contend the triple bind may be the cause of increased violence and aggression in girls.

African American girls in one of the poorest sections of St. Louis are the subject of Jody Miller’s *Getting Played: African American Girls, Urban Inequality, and Gendered Violence*. Miller examines how the girls are victimized and how this experience becomes embedded in their lives. The violence these girls endure ranges from assault to gang rape. Interviews with the young women provide a glimpse into their troubled and violence-filled lives. Another book by Jody Miller, *One of the Guys: Girls, Gangs, and Gender*, focuses on gangs in St. Louis, Missouri, and Cleveland, Ohio. In these interviews, girls attempt to explain why they join gangs and what their lives are like as gang members. Miller also interviewed girls in the same communities who chose not to become involved in gang activity. By looking at both groups in the same cities, the author hoped to draw

conclusions about why some girls join gangs.

In *Girls in Trouble with the Law*, Laurie Schaffner focuses specifically on why girls enter the juvenile justice system; broken families and violence and abuse in the home are among the problems discussed. She also describes the problems girls encounter in juvenile detention centers. Schaffner’s previous incarceration as a juvenile gives her an empathy with the girls she interviews in the juvenile system. Her book includes artwork created by the girls while they were incarcerated. This artwork provides an avenue in which to view the girls, their behavior, and life outside the juvenile facility. Deborah Prothrow-Stith and Howard Spivak believe there is hope to stopping juvenile violence; they detail a turnaround in Boston in *Murder Is No Accident: Understanding and Preventing Youth Violence in America*. The authors played an integral part in developing a plan to combat violence in that city. Included in the plan were positive role models, strategies for combating poverty, gun buybacks, domestic prevention programs, and home visitations. Their plan has become a blueprint for other cities to follow.

Gregory Moffatt divides children into two categories in *Wounded Innocents and Fallen Angels: Child Abuse and Child Aggression*. Children are wounded innocents, suffering from the actions of others, or aggressors who inflict pain on others. In the case of children as victims, Moffatt discusses Munchausen syndrome by proxy, caregiver abuse and neglect, and why a parent will not protect a child from an abusive parent. He also looks at children as aggressors—acting as bullies, committing murder, or perpetrating violence on themselves by cutting and eating disorders.

Finally, the U.S. Department of Justice’s *Office of Justice Programs: Youth Violence Prevention* website (<http://www.ojp.gov/programs/youthviolenceprevention.htm>) is a helpful source of information on violence in schools, youth gangs, and youth gun violence. Numerous links are provided on resources, research, and prevention concerning youth and violence.

## Conclusion

AS THE PUBLICATIONS DISCUSSED IN THIS essay reveal, violence is prevalent in the lives of too many women and girls. This problem is global in scope, from family members who believe they must kill a sister or daughter to regain the family honor, to the husband or boyfriend who wants to maintain control

of the relationship, to the stranger who decides that sexually assaulting a woman is his right because he is a man. Women and girls are also responsible for violence, murdering their children, committing domestic violence against their partner, participating in gang violence from assault to murder, and stalking others. Despite the many efforts to reduce and combat such violence, this problem persists, leaving many lasting physical and psychological scars on victims and families as well as devastating consequences for society at large.

## Notes

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